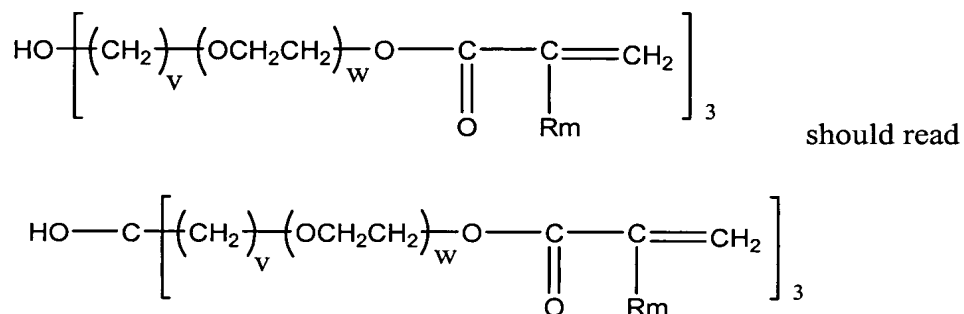


REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, and claim 4 has accordingly been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In this regard, Applicants noted an obvious error in formula (10) recited in original claim 4, of which one skilled in the art would not only recognize the existence but also the appropriate correction, i.e.,



In addition, claim 5 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 3 in view of the cancellation of claim 4. Further, claims 5 and 10 have been amended to further improve their form which do not narrow the scope of the claims. Moreover, claims 8 and 9 been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 2 was previously canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the Amendment, after final, is proper because the Amendment merely amends an independent claim to incorporate the subject matter of an objected-to claim; adopts the Examiner's suggested amendments; amends dependency of a claim; and cancels three claims. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 10-12 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 5 and 10 were objected to for informalities.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 10 to replace "that is coated" with --coated--, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

II. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

a. Claims 1 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,656,990 to Shustack et al. in view of each of JP 08-295665 (JP '665) or JP 09-132563 (JP '563).

b. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Shustack et al. in view of each of JP '665 or JP '563, and further in view of EP 0 378 895 (EP '895).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over the cited references. As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 1, from which claims 3 and 10-12 depend, directly or indirectly, to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, which is not included in the rejections. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

c. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Shustack et al., and further in view of EP '895.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot because claim 8 has been canceled.

III. Conclusion


From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions

concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 19, 2007

By: 
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